

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 9526

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN (9526 VICE 9256)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TU, GR

SUBJ: MFA COMMENTS ON STATUS OF AIRSPACE AND CONTINENTAL SHELF

NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) BERN 5260, B) STATE 293083, C) STATE 303073

1. EMBOFF REVIEWED POST-BRUSSELS STATUS OF CONTINENTAL SHELF AND AEGEAN AIRSPACE DISPUTES IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH MFA OFFICERS RIZA TURMEN AND GAZNE SOYSAL DECEMBER 14.

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2. AEGEAN/LOS CHIEF TURMEN SAID THAT FONMINS BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL HAD AGREED IN BRUSSELS THAT THE JOINT COMMISSION (ESTABLISHED BY ARTICLE 8 OF THE BERN PROCESS VERBAL) WOULD MEET IN LATE JANUARY, BUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT, NO PUBLICITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THE MEETING. TURMEN STATED THAT IT WAS NOT DEFINITE THAT THE NEGOTIATING TEAMS WOULD ALSO MEET AT

THAT TIME. ACCORDING TO TURMEN, THE GOT PREFERENCES SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS OF THE NEGOTIATING TEAMS AND THE JOINT COMMISSION, IN THE HOPE THAT THE NEGOTIATORS COULD PRESSURE THE JOINT COMMISSION TO AGREE ON VALID PRECEDENTS AND AVOID STALLING TACTICS. TURMEN OUTLINED THE GOT'S EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COMMISSION IN TERMS SIMILAR TO AMBASSADOR BILGE'S REMARKS (PARA 7, REF A); I.E., THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD EXAMINE OTHER DELIMITATION PROBLEMS AND THEIR RESOLUTIONS ON A CEASE-BY-CASE BASIS IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH SUITABLE PRECEDENTS. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE COMMISSION'S DISCUSSIONS WOULD PROCEED ON A PRAGMATIC BASIS, WOULD AVOID FURTHER STERILE DEBATE OF PRINCIPLES (I.E. MEDIAN LINE VS. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OR 1958 GENEVA AGREEMENT VS. NORTH SEA DECISION) AND WOULD SIMPLY ASSIST THE NEGOTIATORS IN THE PROCESS OF DRAWING A LINE IN THE AEGEAN.

3. TURMEN INQUIRED ABOUT THE TIMING ON CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE U.S. TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA). HE CONCERN, HE SAID, WAS BASED ON APPREHENSION THAT THE GOT WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY PENDING RESOLUTION OF THE DCA ISSUE. (THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE HEARD THE OPINION HERE THAT THE GOT DOES NOT WISH TO REACH EARLY AGREEMENT WITH GOT, BECAUSE ANY AGREEMENT MIGHT ENHANCE CONGRESSIONAL IMPRESSIONS OF GOT REASONABLENESS AND IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR PASSAGE OF DCA THUS LESSEN THE PRESSURE GOT CAN PUT ON TURKEY IN OTHER DISPUTED ISSUES). EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT GOT, FOR ITS PART, MAY HAVE REASON TO SUSPECT GOT'S WILLINGNESS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT PRIOR TO THIS YEAR'S GENERAL ELECTIONS. IN RESPONSE, TURMEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WANTS A SOLUTION, EVEN THOUGH HE, AS A TECHNICIAN, MIGHT PREFER TO RESERVE TURKEY'S OPTIONS PENDING ELECTION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT.

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4. CONCERNING AEGEAN AIRSPACE NEGOTIATIONS, GAZNE SOYSAL, ALSO OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, SAID THAT NO DATE FOR FUTHER TALKS HAD BEEN SET AT THE BRUSSELS MEETING BETWEEN CAGLAYANGIL AND BITSIOS. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO SOYSAL, THERE MAY BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE OF A RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSIONS. ASKED WHOSE COURT THE BALL IS IN, SOYSAL RESPONDED THAT THE NEXT MOVE IS UP TO WHOEVER HAS THE NEXT CONCESSION TO OFFER. THE GOT, HE INDICATED, HAS ALREADY MADE ITS MAJOR CONCESSION IN AGREEING TO NOTIFICATIONS ON FLIGHTS OCCURRING OVER PORTIONS OF THE TURKISH MAINLAND. THIS CONCESSION WAS AT CAGLAYANGIL'S INSISTENCE, OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF OTHERS WITHIN THE MFA. OTHER STATEMENTS BY SOYSAL WERE IN AGREEMENT WITH TURKISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR PELIT'S BRIEFING OF DEPARTMENT OFFICER NOVEMBER 30 (REF B).

5. CAGLAYANGIL, IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH AKAJANS NEWS AGENCY PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 15 TERUMAN, COMMENTED BRIEFLY

ON HIS BRUSSELS MEETING WITH BITSIOS. HE SAID, "EVERY MEETING
ENABLES US TO BETTER UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER'S PROBLEMS. IF I
MAY MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE MEETING, I CAN SAY THAT TURKEY AND
GREECE ARE ACTING WITH GOOD WILL AND DETERMINATION TO SOLVE THEIR
RELATIONS WITH AN AGREEMENT. I NOTE THIS WITH SATISFACTION."

6. PRIMIN DEMIREL IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 16 AT WHICH STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS COULD WELL BE
DISCUSSED.
MACOMBER

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